discloses using a single Huffman table. Accordingly, the Hirabayashi et al. reference does not disclose the element of "compressing subregions of the image data stream by application of a plurality of compression code tables."
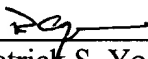
Because the Examiner has failed to show that the cited reference discloses *all* of the claimed elements, the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of anticipation. Therefore, independent claim 24 and its respective dependent claims 25 through 27 are believed to be patentable over the Hirabayashi et al. reference.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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